

2012 Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations

Executive Summary of Changes

General:

- All website addresses will be updated at time of publication.
- A single file of the entire document will be available on the website. This single file will be bookmarked/indexed for fast searching.
- A file compatible with electronic reading devices will be also be available on the website.
- Grammatical edits were made throughout the document. Portions of the document have been reorganized to improve flow and clarity without modification to the text.

Chapter 1- Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Overview:

- No changes

Chapter 2- BLM:

- Added new section about BLM Fire Operations Website
- Updated FA-300 Division Chief responsibilities to reflect reorganization and establishment of FA-350 (Branch of Radio Operations)
- Added the following new sections (from errata):
 - *Driver Training for Regular Drivers of Fire Equipment*
 - *Sage Grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management*
- Clarified direction on BLM Fire fitness programs
- Clarified direction on mobilization of BLM Firefighters, use of funding sources, and processes for firefighter mobilization
- Provided updated direction on BLM fire equipment storage and maintenance standards
- Clarified BLM policy on BLM engine minimum staffing requirements
- Clarified BLM policy on use of detailed employees on BLM engine crews
- Updated BLM engine typing standards to reflect NWCG standard, and moved the section to Chapter 14 (Firefighting Equipment)
- Clarified information regarding target qualifications for BLM exclusive-use helitack crews
- Removed section on Operational Guidelines for Aquatic Invasive Species; direction is now interagency and resides in Chapter 11
- Incorporated direction on BLM use of WFDSS from Instruction Memorandum No. FA IM-2011-021

Chapter 3- NPS:

- Provided direction regarding the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* and its relationship to other NPS policy
- Updated the “FAM Chief/RFMO/FMO” performance requirement matrix
- Removed language specific to structural firefighting, and added reference to NPS Structural Firefighting policy documents
- Removed the following sections:
 - *NPS Capital Equipment Committee*
 - *Working Capital Fund*
 - *Fire Equipment Development*
 - *Upgrades and Accessories*
 - *Travel on FMPC Funds*

- *Property Transfer/Replacement*
- *Fitness Equipment and Facilities*
- *Firefighter Target Physical Fitness Standards*
- *National Fire Operations Fitness Challenge*
- Added the following sections:
 - *Engine Operating Standards*
 - *Equipment Bulletins and Equipment Alerts*
 - *Annual Safety Inspections, Scheduled Maintenance, and Daily Inspections*
 - *Fire Management In Wilderness*
- Clarified NPS policy regarding use of emergency lights and sirens
- Removed section on *Operational Guidelines for Aquatic Invasive Species*; direction is now interagency and resides in Chapter 11

Chapter 4- FWS:

- Provided direction regarding the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* and its relationship to other FWS policy
- Clarified direction on prescribed fire reviews
- Clarified direction on role of Project Leader/Refuge Manager
- Clarified FWS policy on delegations of authority to Zone/District Fire Management Officers
- Reorganized performance requirements matrices
- Removed section on *Operational Guidelines for Aquatic Invasive Species*; direction is now interagency and resides in Chapter 11

Chapter 5- FS:

- Clarified FS requirements for use of WFDSS
- Provided updated FS policy regarding WFDSS approval thresholds and authorities
- Provided updated guidance regarding fire chemical use, avoidance areas, and notification/reporting resulting from the Record of Decision for the *Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land*.
- Removed section on *Operational Guidelines for Aquatic Invasive Species*; direction is now interagency and resides in Chapter 11

Chapter 7- Safety and Risk Management:

- Clarified direction regarding work/rest and length of assignment, including addition of graphic from NMAC clarification letter
- Clarified direction regarding management controls to mitigate exposure
- Clarified policy regarding wildland fire boots as PPE
- Removed agency-specific text regarding wildland fire boot stipends, and added reference to DOI policy on the subject
- Clarified policy regarding procurement and use of non-specialized PPE
- Added the following new sections:
 - *Hazardous Water Sources*
 - *Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) Exposure*
 - *Management Controls to Mitigate Exposure*
- Clarified direction on “Visits to the Fireline” and fireline logistical support
- Added information regarding the SAFENET Field Card

Chapter 8- Interagency Coordination and Cooperation

- Added the following new sections:
 - *Federal Fire Policy Council*
 - *Interior Fire Executive Council*
 - *USFS All-Hazards Guiding Principles and Doctrine*
- Updated the *Office of Wildland Fire Coordination* section
- Clarified BLM direction for acceptance of cooperator qualifications during initial and extended attack
- Provided updates to the “All-Hazards Coordination and Cooperation” section, including addition of the following sections:
 - *National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP, 40 CFR 300)*
 - *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act*
 - *Presidential Policy Directive-8*

Chapter 9- Fire Management Planning

- Clarified agency policies regarding suppression of human-caused wildfires

Chapter 10- Preparedness

- Clarified direction regarding Fire Danger Operating Plans, Preparedness/Step-Up Plans, and Initial Response Plans
- Clarified direction regarding update and use of Fire Danger Pocket Cards

Chapter 11- Incident Management

- Added BLM and NPS policy regarding use of the incident complexity analysis and the Organizational Needs Assessment (from errata)
- Provided updates to the WFDSS portion of the chapter, and removed WFDSS language that was duplicative with language in the WFDSS appendix
- Provided updated USFS and DOI guidance for approval of WFDSS decisions, calculating estimated fire cost, and approval levels
- Added section on *Operational Guidelines for Aquatic Invasive Species*; direction is now interagency and was deleted from agency-specific chapters
- Added a new section regarding noxious weed spread mitigation
- Clarified policy regarding inclusion of wildland fire resources in dispatch plans for non-wildland fire responses
- updated references to Cost Containment and Cost Containment Teams
- Combined agency-specific guidance regarding FLAME Act responsibilities into interagency guidance and inserted the section in this chapter

Chapter 12- Suppression Chemicals and Delivery Systems

- Provided updated USFS guidance regarding fire chemical use, avoidance areas, and notification/reporting resulting from the Record of Decision for the *Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land*.

Chapter 13- Firefighter Training and Qualifications

- Incorporated BLM recertification policy (from errata)

- Clarified direction on incident qualification card expiration dates, and provided FS policy on the subject
- Provided updated information and guidance regarding the DOI Medical Standards Program
- Inserted Crew Typing matrix from Appendix T

Chapter 14- Firefighting Equipment

- Updated Engine Typing matrix to reflect current NWCG typing standards
- Added NWCG water tender typing standards, and clarified tactical water tender qualification and staffing requirements
- Updated information regarding ground ignition devices and transporting/dispensing fuel

Chapter 15- Communications

- Added policy regarding use of mobile communication devices while operating vehicles
- Added BLM/FWS fire suppression GPS datum and coordinate standard (from errata)
- Removed the frequencies 164.1375 MHz, 166.6875 MHz and 171.1375 MHz from the list of approved National Interagency Air Tactics frequencies as per National Interagency Incident Communications Division information sheet

Chapter 16- Aviation Operations/Resources

- Provided updated definition of point-to-point flights
- Clarified BLM exclusive–use helitack crew configuration standard (from errata)
- Removed redundant required training courses from the “Exclusive Use Fire Helicopter Position Prerequisites” matrix; these courses are required to attain the qualifications displayed in the matrix. Remaining courses consist of additional requirements above those required to attain the qualifications
- Provided updated USFS guidance regarding fire chemical use, avoidance areas, and notification/reporting resulting from the Record of Decision for the *Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land*.
- Added a description of Very Large Air Takers (VLAT)

Chapter 17- Fuels Management

- No significant changes

Chapter 18- Reviews and Investigations

- Removed references to the USFS Accident Prevention Analysis (APA) process; the APA has been combined into the FLA process.
- Added BLM policy regarding BLM use of the FLA processes
- Clarified direction regarding delegations of authority for investigation team leaders
- Clarified responsibility for issuing 24-hour accident reports
- Clarified direction regarding use of NWCG qualified Safety Officers as Accident Investigation Advisor/Safety Manager (SAI Core Team Member)
- Provided existing FS/BLM/FWS policy requiring SAI course attendance every 5 years to maintain currency as a SAI Core Team Member
- Changed terminology from “Non-Serious Accidents” to “Accidents”. Wildland fire accidents are now categorized as “Serious Accidents” and “Accidents”
- Provided updated guidance for Accident Investigation methodology and report contents/format

Appendices

Changes to appendices include:

- Appendix A (Sample Questions for Administrator's Site Visit)- Available in Red Book and PDF on website
- Appendix B (Manager's Supplement for Post Incident Review)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix C (Delegation for Field Office Fire Management Officer)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix D (Agency Administrator's Briefing to IMT)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix E (Spot Weather Observation and Forecast Request)- Removed
- Appendix F- Incident Complexity Analysis, Type 1&2)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix G (Incident Complexity Analysis, Type 3,4,&5)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix H (Sample Delegation of Authority Agency Administrator to IMT)- Added smoke management element; available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix I (Local Incident Commander Briefing to IMT)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix J (2012 interagency IMT Evaluation Template)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix K (Delegation for Lessons Learned Review)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix L (Interim NWCG Minimum Standards for Incident Emergency Medical Services)- Available in Red Book and PDF on website
- Appendix M (Work Capacity Test Record)- Available in MS Word on website only
- Appendix N (Medical Examination Requirements)- Removed
- Appendix O (Delegation for FAST)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix P (Sample Annual Operating Plan)- Available in MS Word on website only
- Appendix Q (CISM)- Removed
- Appendix R (NUS Engine Stocking Level)- Available in Red Book and MS Word on website
- Appendix S (WFDSS Elements)- Available in Red Book and PDF on website. Substantial update provided by NFDSC.
- Appendix T (Crew Typing Chart)- Removed from appendices, inserted in Chapter 13
- Appendix U (Job Hazard Analysis)- Removed
- Appendix titles and letter designators have been reorganized to reflect removal of some appendices.

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